

ALASKA LONG TRAIL

Trails Conference 2023 Project Updates



Alaska Long Trail Overview (concept)

Long Trail Corridor*

- Existing Trails
- Identified Gaps

Land Ownership**

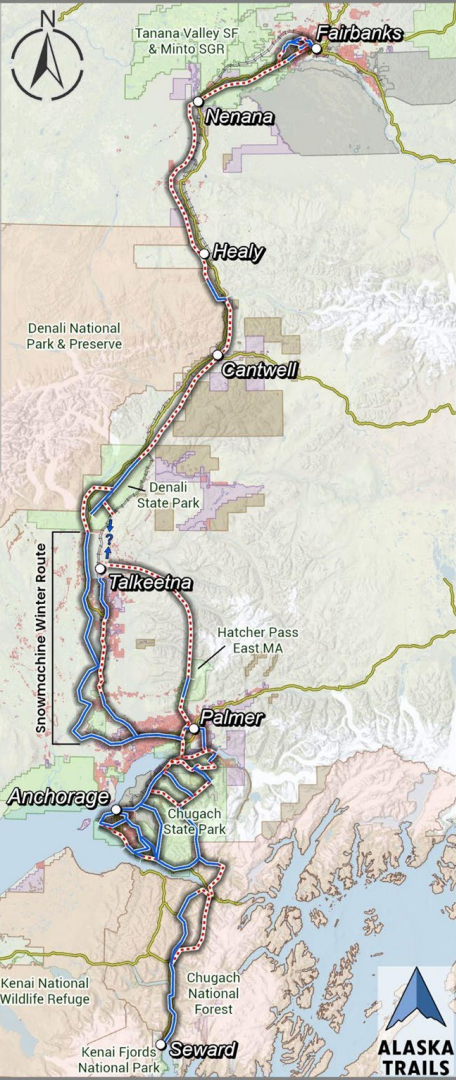
- Private
- State
- AK Native
- Federal
- BLM
- DoD

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Identified gaps: concepts, gap, interim, and proposed projects.

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State: parks, preserves, recreation, and special management
Federal: parks, preserves, and forests

Credits: Alaska Trails, AKDOT, BLM, Esri, and Long Trail Coalition

0 25 50 75 Miles



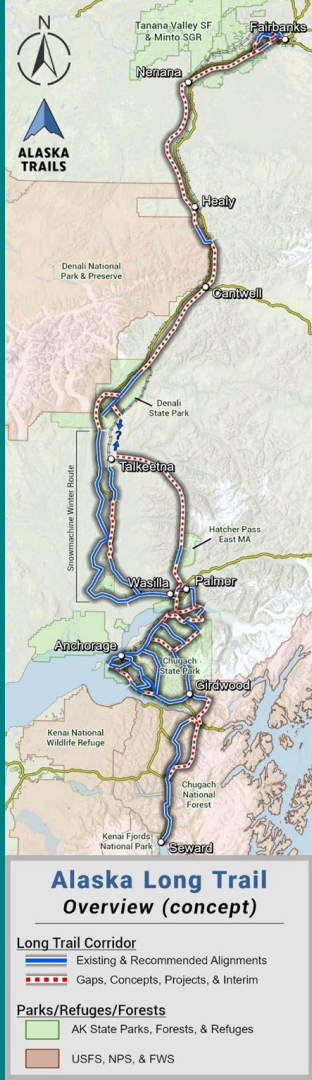
THE ALASKA LONG TRAIL VISION:

A world-class trail system connecting 500+ miles of Alaska's iconic terrain and diverse communities from the Pacific to the Interior, embracing the many ways Alaskans recreate outdoors and bolstering the Alaska economy by attracting visitors from all over the world.



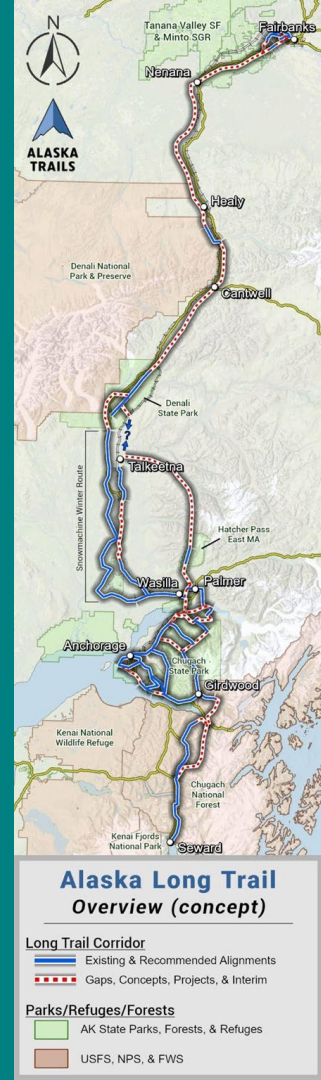
ALASKA LONG TRAIL GOALS:

- Improve access while serving diverse interests
- Promote healthy lives
- Promote heritage
- Build a stronger, more durable economy
- Celebrate and sustain what makes Alaska unique



WHY FAIRBANKS TO SEWARD?

- Momentum and land manager support
- Economic impact to connector communities - “on ramps/ off ramps”
- Manageable costs - significant portions already exist
- “Goldilocks Factor” - wild but not too wild
- Flexible - 4-season/ multi-use route (a “braided system” of trails)



BROAD BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

- Mat-Su Borough Assembly
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly
- City of Palmer
- Denali Borough Assembly
- Anchorage Assembly
- City of Nenana
- City of Seward
- Girdwood Board of Supervisors
- Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA)
- Explore Fairbanks
- Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Visit Anchorage
- Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District



PLANNING – Alaska Long Trail Coalition



5 regions

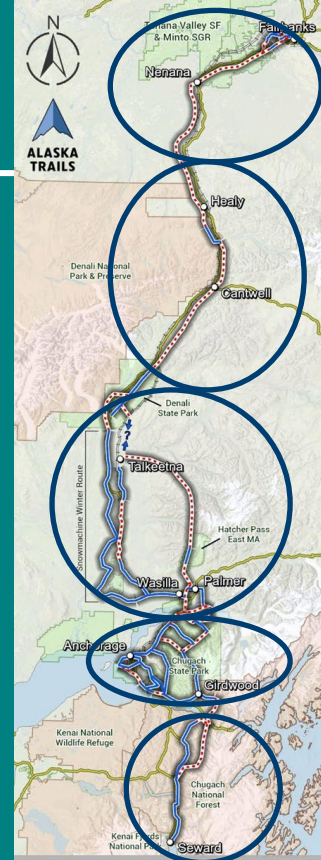
Kenai

Anchorage

Mat-Su

Denali

Fairbanks



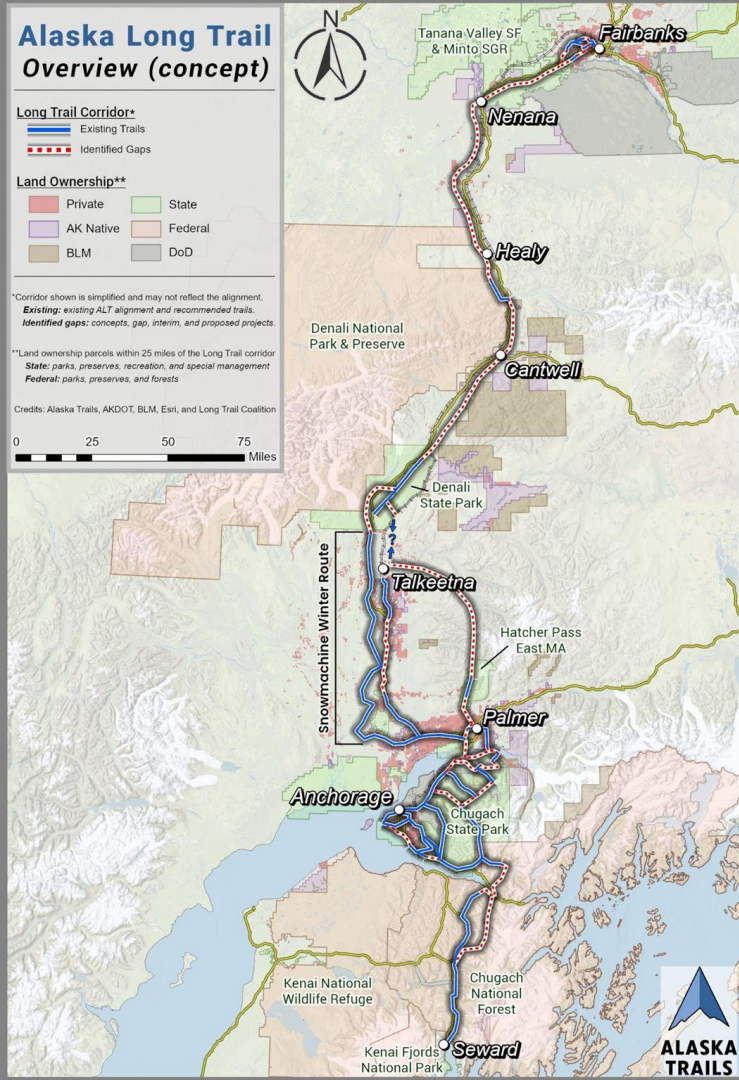
Alaska Long Trail Overview (concept)

Long Trail Corridor

- Existing & Recommended Alignments
- Gaps, Concepts, Projects, & Interim

Parks/Refuges/Forests

- AK State Parks, Forests, & Refuges
- USFS, NPS, & FWS



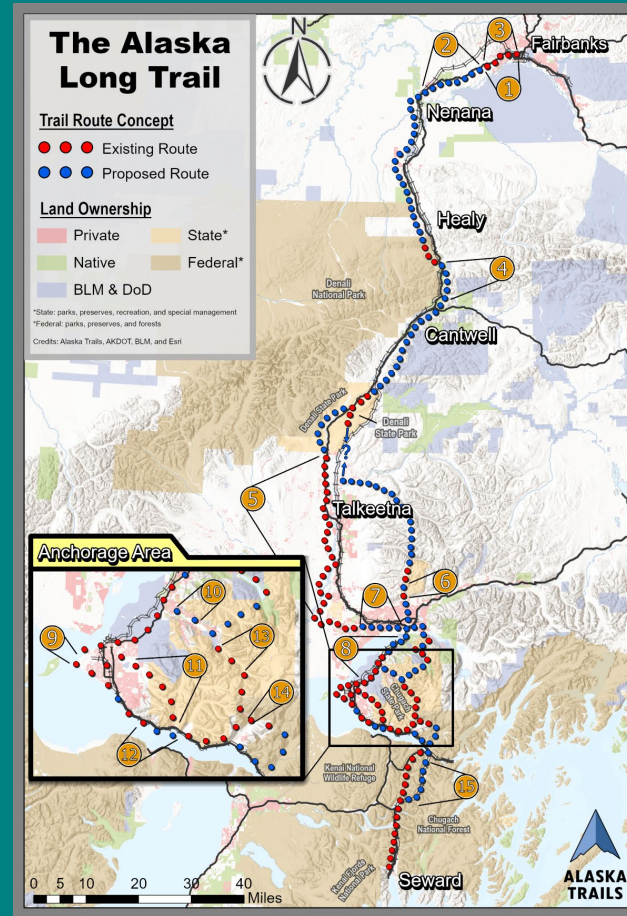
1. State Funding
2. Federal Funding



Number	TPS #	Project	Amount	Responsible
✖	66749	Isberg 4-Season Trail	\$990,000	Fairbanks North Star Borough
✖	66750	Nenana to Fairbanks Multi-Use Trails, Tanana Valley State Forest	\$1,600,000	DNR Division of Forestry
✖	66751	Equinox Marathon Trail – Parks Highway to Fairbanks via Ester Dome	\$1,450,000	Fairbanks North Star Borough
✖	66753	Carlo Creek to Crabbies Crossing Separated Path	\$3,700,000	Denali Borough and AK DOT/PF
✖	67023	Susitna Valley Winter Trail	\$100,000	Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation
✖	66755	GPRA Traverse and Little Susitna Loop	\$1,900,000	MSB, AK State Parks, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation; Hatcher Alpine Xperience (Skeetawk)
✖	66756	Palmer Hay Flats Trail	\$100,000	ADF&G, Mat-Su Borough, Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation
8	66550	Alaska Long Trail Anchorage to Mat-Su Reconnaissance Study	\$300,000	Anchorage Park Foundation
9	66548	Alaska Long Trail Urban Braid - Anchorage Moose Loop	\$800,000	Anchorage Park Foundation
10	66793	Peters Creek Upper Trail & Bridge	\$30,000	AK DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation
11	66797	Arctic to Indian Phase 1 Trail improvements	\$20,000	AK DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation
12	66761	Turnagain Arm Trail Maintenance and Extension	\$370,000	AK DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation
13	66792	Crow Pass - Eagle River	\$1,500,000	AK DNR DPOR and volunteers/nonprofits
14	66766	Glacier Creek Bridge - replacement for hand tram	\$1,200,000	Muni of Anchorage, USFS
✖	66801	Glacier Discovery Hut-to-Hut System, Phase 1	\$690,000	Alaska Huts Association

TOTAL ~~\$14,750,000~~ \$4.22M

STATE OF AK CAPITAL BUDGET FY23



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STATE OF AK CAPITAL BUDGET FY23

Funding Received

\$4.22M

Final amount included in
FY23 Budget

Recipients

3

Only Anchorage area
projects/recipients left in the
budget:

- Anchorage Park Foundation
- Chugach State Park
- Muni of Anchorage

Projects in Budget

7/15

of projects to survive the
veto process

ANCHORAGE TO MAT-SU RECONNAISSANCE STUDY

Alaska Trails



Yes, it's a highway corridor, but the corridor and a trail pass by scenic forests, a series of lakes, and ever changing views of the Chugach Mountains.

Photo – Neeser Construction



EXISTING TRAIL –
Adjoining the Glenn
Hwy from Anchorage
to Mirror Lake

IMAGINING A TRAIL CONNECTING ANCHORAGE WITH PALMER, WASILLA AND THE MAT SU

- Safe** – separates bikers/walkers from vehicles
- Fun & Healthy** – a way to get outside for a quick walk or ride a multi-night excursion
- Practical** – new options for trips to work, or for errands

Map is conceptual; the reconnaissance study will identify the most appropriate practical routes.

Funding Received

\$300K

Anchorage Park
Foundation

Future Federal Funding



Reconnaissance study is an
investment in future
funding which will likely
come from Federal sources

ANCHORAGE MOOSE LOOP WAYFINDING

Funding Received

\$800K

Anchorage Park
Foundation

Project Start Date

2023

Planning, design and
signage installation

Matching funds

APF has been investing
private, matching dollars
in Moose Loop wayfinding
for years!



PETERS CREEK UPPER TRAIL & BRIDGE



Funding Received

\$30K

Chugach State Park

Multi -Use Trail



Trail popular with bikers, hikers,
hunters, skiers and
snowmachiners

Matching Funds

RTP

FY23 State funds used to
leverage Federal funding

ARCTIC TO INDIAN PHASE 1 TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Funding Received

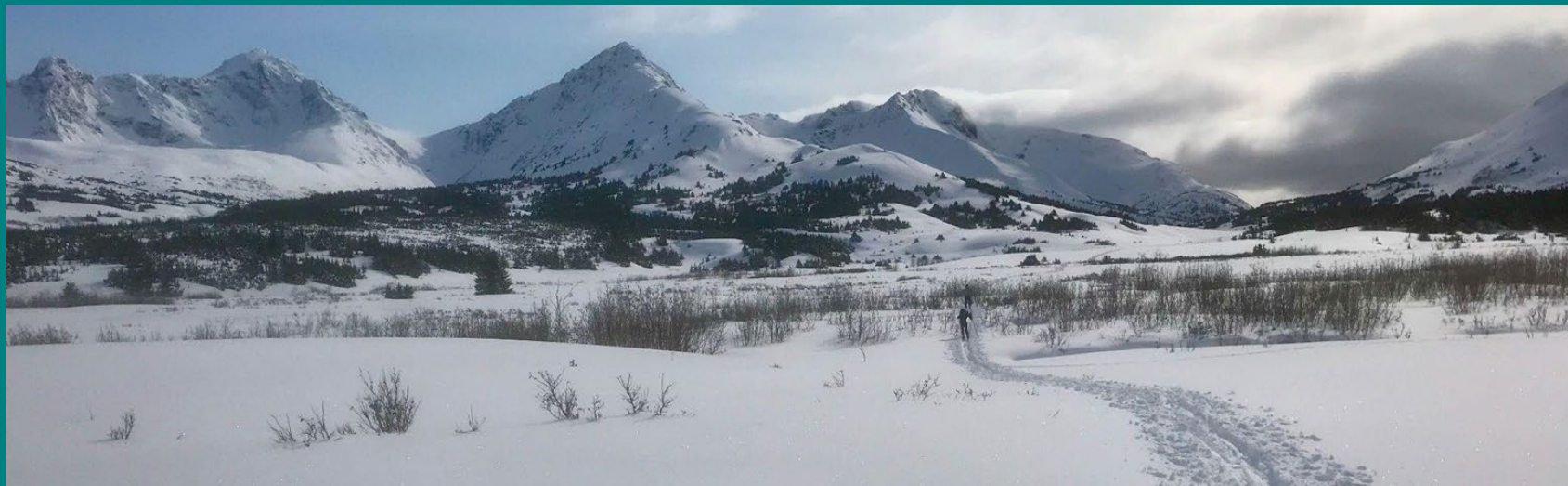
\$20K

Chugach State Park

Planned Work Dates

2023

Winter route flagging to
occur Spring 2023



CROW PASS + TURNAGAIN ARM TRAIL

Funding Received

\$1.5M

Chugach State Park

Planned Work Dates

'24-'25

Funding Received

\$370k

Chugach State Park



GLACIER CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT FOR HAND TRAM



Funding Received

\$1.2m

Anchorage Municipality

Matching Funds

\$550k

Girdwood Valley Service Area;
Additional Matching Grants Pending

Project Start

2023

Planning and design, followed
by construction in '24



STATE OF AK CAPITAL BUDGET FY24

Total Funding Requested

\$8.48M

Ranging from \$60K to \$1.9M

Potential Recipients

7

Array of nonprofits, state
orgs, cities and boroughs

Projects Submitted

14 → 13

Projects ranging from
Fairbanks to Indian

	TPS #	Project	Use	Amount	Recipient
1	66517	Connect Oceanview Bluff Park to Potter Marsh	non-motorized	\$1,000,000	Anchorage Park Foundation
2	66459	Connect Ship to Coastal Through Indigenous Place Name Plaza	non-motorized	\$600,000	Anchorage Park Foundation
3	66548	Wayfinding in Anchorage & Chugiak-Eagle River	non-motorized	\$300,000	Anchorage Park Foundation
4	67940	Indian Valley Trail Reroute	non-motorized	\$1,500,000	Alaska Trails
5	67994	Arctic Valley Trailhead Parking Expansion	non-motorized	\$175,000	DPOR
6	67954	Eklutna Lakeside Trail Improvements	multi-use	\$234,000	Alaska Trails
7	67910	Ram Valley Re-establishing Access	non-motorized	\$100,000	Alaska Trails
8	68009	Peters Creek Trailhead Parking Survey and Design	multi-use	\$75,000	DPOR
9	68011	Peters Creek Trails Assessment and Design Prescription	multi-use	\$60,000	Chugach Mountain Bikers
10	67978	Core Mat-Su Corridor Planning	non-motorized	\$100,000	Alaska Trails
11	66755	GPRA Traverse and Little Susitna Loop	non-motorized	\$1,900,000	Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation
12	66753	Carlo Creek to Crabbies Crossing Separated Path	non-motorized	\$1,000,000	Denali Borough
13	66749	Isberg 4-Season Trail	multi-use	\$990,000	Fairbanks North Star Borough
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Total \$8.48M

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Alaska Long Trail CAPSIS FY24

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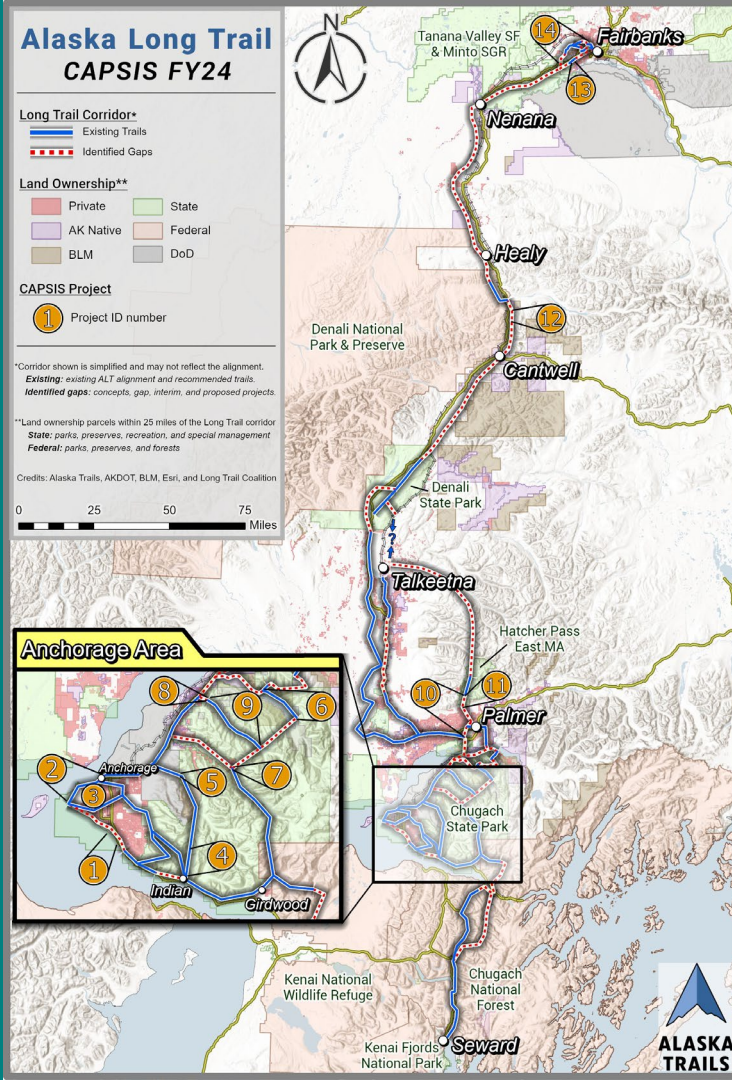
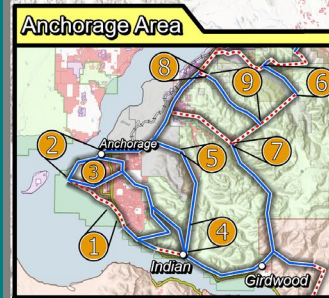
CAPSIS Project

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0 25 50 75 Miles



FEDERAL FUNDING— thank you, Senator Murkowski!

FFY22 Congressionally Directed
Spending **Received**

\$5.77M

Chugach National Forest

FFY23 Congressionally Directed
Spending **Received**

\$5.5M

Chugach National Forest, AK DOT/PF,
BLM

FFY24 Congressionally Directed
Spending **Requested**

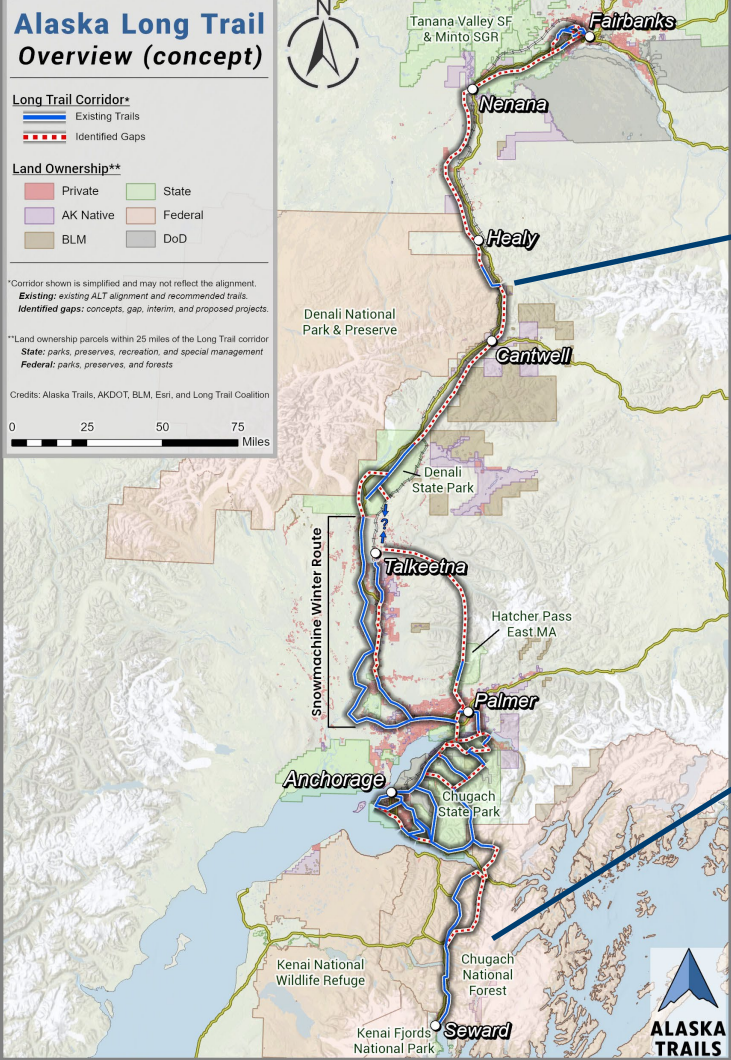
\$7.55M

Alaska Trails, Chugach National Forest,
Denali Borough, Anchorage Park Foundation

FFY23 Congressionally Directed Spending **RECEIVED**

\$5.5M

\$1M to BLM
National Scenic Trail feasibility study



\$2.18M to AK DOT/PF
Separated pathways along Parks Highway

\$2.35M to Chugach National Forest
INHT – Southern Trek trail segments and bridges

FFY 24 Congressionally Directed
Spending **REQUESTED**

\$7.55M

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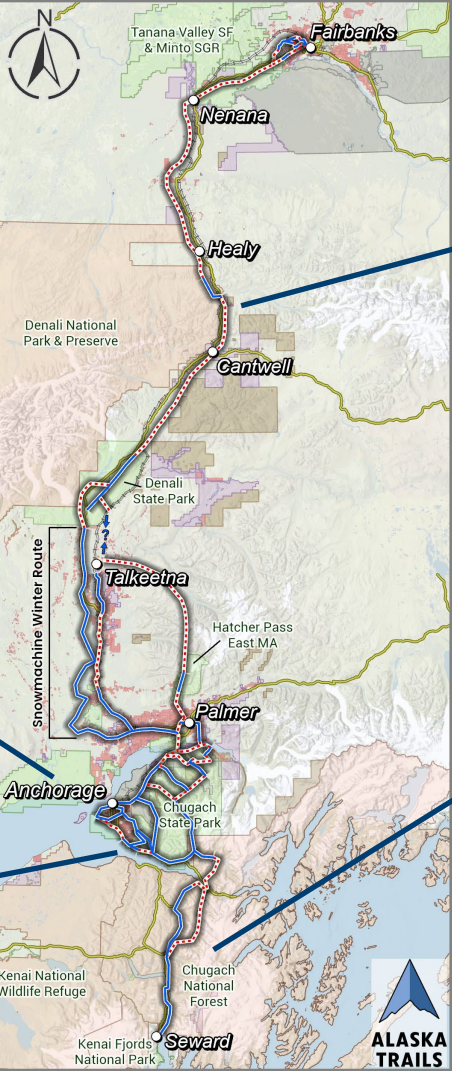
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BLM	DoD

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\$2.65M to AK DOT/PF
Separated pathways along
Parks Highway

\$0.9M to Anchorage Park
Foundation
Indigenous trailheads

\$2.5M to Chugach National
Forest
Moose Pass trail
connections

\$1.5M to Alaska Trails
Indian Valley Trail Reroute



INHT: Southern Trek (Seward to Girdwood)

- ~180 miles total (including connectors and parallel routes).
- ~110 miles overlaps a presumed AK Long Trail “thru-hike” route from Seward to Girdwood.
- Of this, ~80 miles are currently constructed, or ~73%.
- With current funding, it’s anticipated that ~99 total miles will be constructed by end of 2026, or **~90%**!



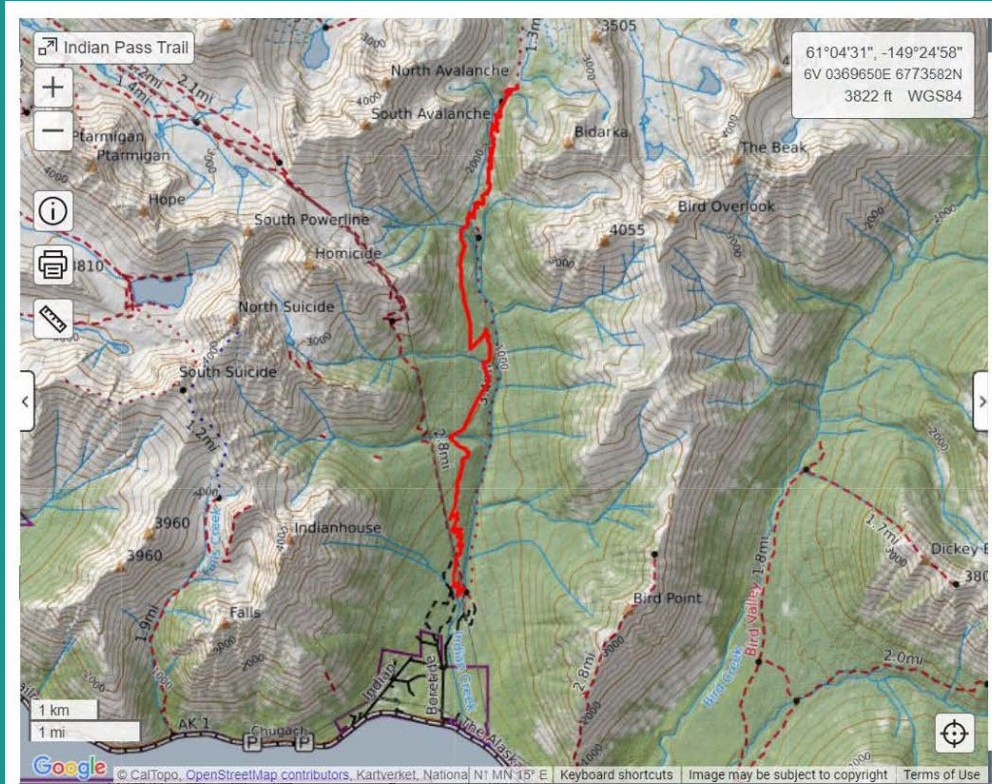
Remaining Gaps

- Two segments currently do not have construction funding – in the Twentymile valley and through the Moose Pass townsite.

Paths Forward

- Twentymile design narrative anticipated 2025, will inform construction cost needs.
- Current funding application for pedestrian bridge and bike path connection through Moose Pass, Alaska Trails is assisting with seeking matching funds.

Indian Valley Trail Reroute



Note: The red line is a preliminary route, to be determined during the proposed project

FFY 24 Congressionally Directed
Spending **REQUESTED**

\$1.5M

Alaska Trails

Work Scope

- 7 miles long
- climb ~2000 feet from Boretide Road to Indian Pass
- At least 5 bridges will be required

ALASKA LONG TRAIL



Learn more and stay in touch!
mariyam.medovaya@alaskatrails.org

www.alaska-trails.org